

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computerized method for brokering digital content between a buyer and a  
2 seller on a public submission content library comprising:  
3 performing a search for content using user-specified criteria;  
4 receiving a bid from the buyer for content found by the search;  
5 sending the bid to the seller;  
6 receiving a response to the bid from the seller; and  
7 releasing the content to the buyer if agreement is reached between the buyer  
8 and the seller.
- 1 2. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the search searches for a  
2 request from the buyer for content having the user-specified criteria.
- 1 3. The computerized method of claim 2 further comprising:  
2 receiving an offer from the seller of the content in response to the search for a  
3 request; and  
4 sending the offer to the buyer.
- 1 4. The computerized method of claim 3, wherein the offer comprises a sample of  
2 the content.
- 1 5. The computerized method of claim 2, wherein releasing the content to the  
2 buyer comprises:  
3 receiving the content from the seller; and  
4 sending the content to the buyer.
- 1 6. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the content

2 from the seller prior to the search.

1 7. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the response from the seller is a  
2 counteroffer and further comprising:

3 sending the counteroffer to the buyer; and  
4 receiving a response to the counteroffer from the buyer.

1 8. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving payment for the content from the buyer; and  
3 validating the payment.

1 9. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein releasing the content to the  
2 buyer comprises:

3 watermarking the content; and  
4 sending the content as watermarked to the buyer.

1 10. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising soliciting a rating  
2 from the buyer and the seller.

1 11. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 tracking use of the content by the buyer in accordance with restrictions placed  
3 on the content by the seller; and  
4 notifying the seller if the use of the content by the buyer violates the  
5 restrictions.

1 12. The computerized method of claim 11 further comprising:  
2 notifying the buyer if the use of the content by the buyer violates the  
3 restrictions.

1 13. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving compensation for brokering services from the buyer.

1 14. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving compensation for brokering services from the seller.

1 15. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving revenue for advertisements displayed to the buyer and seller.

1 16. A computerized server comprising:  
2 a processing unit;  
3 a memory coupled to the processing unit through a system bus; and  
4 a search function executed from the memory to cause the processing unit to  
5 perform a search for content having user-defined criteria; and  
6 a financials function executed from the memory to cause the processing unit to  
7 manage negotiations between a buyer and a seller of content found by the search  
8 function.

1 17. The computerized server of claim 16, wherein the financials function further  
2 operates to cause the processing unit to manage a payment from the buyer to the  
3 seller.

1 18. The computerized server of claim 16, wherein the search function operates to  
2 cause the processing unit to search for a request from the buyer for content having the  
3 user-specified criteria.

1 19. The computerized server of claim 16 further comprising:  
2 a watermarking function executed from the memory to cause the processing

3 unit to watermark the content.

1 20. The computerized server of claim 16 further comprising:

2 a ratings function executed from the memory to cause the processing unit to  
3 solicit a rating from the buyer and the seller.

1 21. The computerized server of claim 16 further comprising:

2 a tracking function executed from the memory to cause the processing unit to  
3 track use of the content by the buyer in accordance with restrictions placed on the  
4 content by the seller and further to notify the seller if the use of the content by the  
5 buyer violates the restrictions.

1 22. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions  
2 comprising:

3 a search function to perform a search for content having user-defined criteria;  
4 and

5 a financials function to manage negotiations between a buyer and a seller of  
6 content found by the search function.

1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further computer-

2 executable instructions to cause the financials function to manage a payment from the  
3 buyer to the seller.

1 24. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further computer-

2 executable instructions to cause the search function to search for a request from the  
3 buyer for content having the user-specified criteria.

1 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further computer-

2 executable instructions comprising:  
3 a watermarking function to watermark the content.

1 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further computer-  
2 executable instructions comprising:  
3 a ratings function to solicit a rating from the buyer and the seller.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further computer-  
2 executable instructions comprising:  
3 a tracking function to track use of the content by the buyer in accordance with  
4 restrictions placed on the content by the seller and to notify the seller if the use of the  
5 content by the buyer violates the restrictions.

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